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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
BETIT, JACOB F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/734,252	Applicant(s) WATKINSON, MICHAEL DAVID	
	Examiner Jacob F. Betit	Art Unit 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the class schedule information" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 2-17 are rejected as being dependent on rejected independent claim 1.

Claim 18 recites the limitation "the class schedule information" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 19 is rejected as being dependent on rejected independent claim 18.

Claim 20 recites "[t]he computer readable medium according to claim 20". This makes the claim indefinite because a claim cannot depend upon itself. For the purpose of examining it is assumed that claim 20 depends on claim 19.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-13, 17-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson et al. (International Publication No. WO 03/019422 A1) in view of Suzuki (U.S. patent publication No. 2001/0027098 A1).

As to claim 1, Jacobson et al. teaches a method for synchronizing database records, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, on a central computer, data, data, and image files in a master database (see page 17, lines 4-12);

synchronizing the data stored on the central computer with a first database in a mobile computer (see page 18, lines 7-31); and

synchronizing the information stored on the central computer with a second database in the mobile computer (see page 19, lines 4-32), wherein the steps of synchronizing the data and synchronizing the information are performed by a conduit program between the central computer and the mobile computer (see page 18, lines 19-27).

Jacobson et al. does not teach storing demographic data and class schedule data.

Suzuki teaches storing demographic data and class schedule data (see paragraph 0061,

where "demographic data" is read on "address book database" and "class schedule data" is read on "ToDo list database having registered therein schedules for the respective personal names").

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Jacobson et al. by the teachings of Suzuki because storing demographic data and class schedule data would allow different types of information about a person to be displayed (see Suzuki, abstract).

As to claim 2, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program determines a user number associated with the mobile computer (see Jacobson et al., page 17, line 13 through page 18, line 2).

As to claim 3, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program synchronizes on a user lever (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 3-31), the demographic data and class schedule data (see Suzuki, paragraph 0061)

As to claim 4, Jacobson et al. as modified, does not teach wherein the conduit program synchronizes a plurality of users via a 32 bit integer where each user is represented by 2 bits.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Jacobson et al. as modified, to include wherein the conduit program synchronizes a plurality of users via a 32 bit integer where each user is represented by 2 bits because a 32 bit integer where each user is represented by 2 bits is a design choice made by a computer programmer which would be chosen as a balance between the number of users that

should be represented, the amount of memory the identifier should take up, and the speed on which the user should be identified.

As to claim 5, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program iterates through the records in the first database and second database of the mobile computer (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-18, where this is an obvious part of the synchronization process).

As to claim 6, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program marks records in the central computer that have changed as marked records (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-18, and see figure 8).

As to claim 7, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program writes any changed records in the mobile computer to the central computer (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-18).

As to claim 8, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program iterates through the records of the central computer (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-18, where this is an obvious part of the synchronization process).

As to claim 9, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program determines if there are any marked records and writes the marked records to the mobile computer (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-18, and see figure 8).

As to claim 10, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the conduit program determines if there are any new records and writes the new records to the mobile computer (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-27).

As to claim 11, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches further including the step of:

synchronizing the image files stored on the central computer with a third database in the personal digital assistant (see Jacobson et al., page 11, lines 5-13 and see lines 28-33).

As to claim 12, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the step of synchronizing the image files further includes the steps of:

exporting; and installing on the personal digital assistant (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 7-27), the demographic data, class schedule information and image files (see Suzuki, paragraph 0061).

As to claim 13, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the demographic data and class schedule information are stored in random access memory of the personal digital assistant (see page 18, lines 19-32).

As to claim 17, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the steps of synchronizing the image files, synchronizing the demographic data, and synchronizing the class schedule information are performed wirelessly (see Jacobson et al., page 11, lines 14-22).

As to claim 18, Jacobson et al. teaches a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions to cause a computer to:

store, data in a master database (see column 17, lines 4-12);

synchronize the data stored on the master database with a first database in a mobile computer (see column 18, lines 7-31);

synchronize the information stored on the master database with a second database in the mobile computer (see column 19, lines 4-32); and

synchronize the image files stored on the master database with a third database in the mobile computer (see column 11, lines 5-13 and see lines 28-33).

Jacobson et al. does not teach demographic data, class schedule data.

Suzuki teaches demographic data, class schedule data (see paragraph 0061, where "demographic data" is read on "address book database" and "class schedule data" is read on "ToDo list database having registered therein schedules for the respective personal names").

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Jacobson et al. to include the teachings of Suzuki because demographic data, class schedule data would allow different types of information about a person to be displayed (see Suzuki, abstract).

As to claim 19, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the instructions of synchronizing the data and synchronizing the information are performed by a conduit program

(see Jacobson et al., page 17, line 13 through page 18, line 2), the demographic data and the class schedule information (see Suzuki, paragraph 0061).

As to claim 20, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein the instructions of synchronizing the image files stored on the master database with a third database in the mobile computer are performed by exporting data, information and image files, and installing the data, information and image files on the mobile computer (see page 18, lines 7-27), the demographic data and class schedule information (see Suzuki, paragraph 0061).

As to claim 21, Jacobson et al. teaches a method for synchronizing database records in a school, the method comprising the steps of:

populating a master database with records and photographic images; loading the master database onto a central computer (see column 17, lines 4-12);

transferring the records and photographic images from the master database to a plurality of mobile computers (see column 18, lines 7-31); and

updating the records and photographic images (see page 8, lines 2-16).

Jacobson et al. does not teach student records.

Suzuki teaches student records (see paragraph 0061).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Jacobson et al. by the teachings of Suzuki because student records would allow different types of information about a person to be displayed (see Suzuki, abstract).

As to claim 22, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches further comprising the step of:

synchronizing the records by use of a conduit program (see Jacobson et al., page 18, lines 19-27), the student records (Suzuki, paragraph 0061).

As to claim 23, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches further comprising the step of:

synchronizing the photographic images by exporting the photographic images from the master database to the plurality of mobile computers (see Jacobson et al., page 11, lines 5-33).

5. Claims 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson et al. (International Publication No. WO 03/019422 A1) in view of Suzuki (U.S. patent publication No. 2001/0027098 A1) as applied to claims 1-13 and 17-23 above, and further in view of Eino (U.S. patent application publication No. 2003/0236446 A1).

As to claim 14, Jacobson et al. as modified, still does not teach wherein the image files are stored in a memory card of the personal digital assistant.

Eino teaches wherein the image files are stored in a memory card of the personal digital assistant (see paragraph 0024).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Jacobson et al. as modified, by the teachings of Eino because wherein the image files are stored in a memory card of the personal digital assistant would allow the memory card to be freely detachable from the main body of the PDA and the

images could be taken from the memory card and placed on a personal computer without use of the PDA (see Eino, paragraph 0030)

6. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobson et al. (International Publication No. WO 03/019422 A1) in view of Suzuki (U.S. patent publication No. 2001/0027098 A1) as applied to claims 1-13, and 17-23 above, and further in view of Verts, William T., "An Essay on Endian Order", 1996-04-19, www.cs.umass.edu (herein refered to as Verts).

As to claim 15, Jacobson et al. as modified, still does not teach wherein the step of exporting further includes the step converting data in the image file from little endian format on the central computer to big endian format on the mobile computer.

Verts teaches wherein the step of exporting further includes the step converting data in the image file from little endian format on the central computer to big endian format on the mobile computer (pages 1-2).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Jacobson et al. as modified, by the teachings of Verts because wherein the step of exporting further includes the step converting data in the image file from little endian format on the central computer to big endian format on the mobile computer would allow a palm using a 68K processor to more easily display the image if it was in bmp format.

As to claim 16, Jacobson et al. as modified, teaches wherein data in image file is in a 256 color optimized bitmap format (see Verts, pages 1-2).

Conclusion

7. The art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. patent No. 6,636,873 B1 to Carini et al. for teaching synchonization of mobile devices with a central database.

"Palm OS Garnet ARM Programming", ©1996-2004, www.palmos.com, pages 1 and 4-5 for teaching the endian format of the Motorola 68K processors used in Palm PDAs.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob F. Betit whose telephone number is (571) 272-4075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on (571) 272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jfb
2 Dec 2004

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER